WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image processing apparatus comprising:

a line sensor which photoelectric-converts light into a signal then accumulates the signal, and outputs the signal as a 1-line electric signal; and

a drive circuit which drives said line sensor such that one line period is divided into a first section for reading valid image data, a second section for storing dummy image data, and a third section for storing valid image data.

2. The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said line sensor includes a first line sensor and a second line sensor for storing different color signals, and wherein said drive circuit sets different accumulation periods for the respective colors by setting different second sections in said first line sensor and said second line sensor.

3. The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said drive circuit reads said dummy image data during said third section.

4. The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a transfer frequency for electric charge transfer in said first section is different from that in said second and third sections.

5. The image processing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein a product of duration of said second section and the transfer frequency of said second section is greater than that of duration of said first section and the transfer frequency of said first section.

6. The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein accumulated electric charge is periodically read out during said second section.

7. An image processing apparatus comprising:

plural photoreception accumulation portions which respectively perform photoelectric conversion and accumulate different color signals; and

drive circuit which starts accumulation of new signal by reading signals accumulated in said photoreception accumulation portions, and sets accumulation periods for respective colors by changing timings of reading signals from said photoreception accumulation portions for the respective colors.

8. The image processing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said drive circuit reads valid image data from said photoreception accumulation portions and then sets dummy signal accumulation periods for the respective colors.

9. The image processing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said drive circuit transfers dummy data at a speed higher than that for transferring said valid image data.

10. An image processing method comprising the steps of:

photoelectric-converting light into a signal then accumulates the signal, and outputting the signal as a 1-line electric signal, by a line sensor; and

driving said line sensor such that one line period is divided into a first section for reading valid image data, a second section for storing dummy image data, and a third section for storing the valid image data.

11. The image processing method according to claim 10, wherein said line sensor includes a first line sensor and a second line sensor for storing different color signals, and wherein different accumulation periods are set for the respective colors by setting different second sections in said first line sensor and said second line sensor.

12. The image processing method according to claim 10, wherein said dummy image data is read during said third section.

13. The image processing method according to claim 10, wherein a transfer frequency for electric charge transfer in said first section is different from that in said second and third sections.

14. The image processing method according to claim 13, wherein a product of duration of said second section and the transfer frequency of said second section is greater than that of duration of said first section and the transfer frequency of said first section.

15. The image processing method according to claim 10, wherein accumulated electric charge is periodically read out during said second section.

16. An image processing method for an image processing apparatus having plural photoreception accumulation portions which respectively perform photoelectric conversion and accumulate different color signals,

wherein accumulation of new signal is started by reading signals accumulated in said photoreception accumulation portions, and accumulation periods are set for respective colors by changing timings of reading signals from said photoreception accumulation portions for the respective colors.

17. A control program for executing the image processing method in claim 10 by a computer.

18. A computer-readable recording medium holding the control program in claim 17.

19. A control program for executing the image processing method in claim 16 by a computer.

20. A computer-readable recording medium holding the control program in claim 19.